O'HIGGINS IS NOT SPAIN'S.

THE BIG CHILIAN ARMORCLAD HAS NOT BEEN SOLD.

our Agents Noticy the Navy Department That There Is Still a Possibility That We May Get the Ship-Negotlations for Other War Vessels-Torpedo Boats and a Big Battlethip in View-A Possible Ambulance Ship.

WASHINGTON, March 15,-Negotiations for the purchase of foreign warships for the United States Navy have not ended with the acquirethe Brazilian cruisers Amasonas and Admiral Brev. An absolute contradiction of the report cabled from lendon and elsewhere that the Spanish Government had bought the Chilian armorelad O'ltimetes was received at the Navy Department to-day from one of its agents in Europe, probably Lieut, Colwell, the United State naval attaché in London, Earlier in the agent by Secretary Long directing him to ascertain whether Spain had secured the O'Higgins, and his answer in contradiction of that report came this afternoon. Not only has Spain not succooled in getting the Chilian ship, but it was sarned to-night that negotiations are in progress for her purchase by this country, and that, although the Chillan authorities are not making any promises and are believed to be unwilling to help the United States in the current emerency, they may be induced to part with the O'Higgins if sufficient inducements are offered. It will require action by the Chillan Congress, however, to add the O'Higgins to the Amerian Navy, and this may involve a delay which the Navy Department does not view with patience. THE SUN reporter was informed to night by an officer in a posi-tion to know that "the United States stood a very good chance of setting her." Chili's endliness toward this country since Presi dent Harrison made her pay an indemnity of 75,000 and apologize for the attack on the Baltimore's sailors during the Balmaceda revo bution is supposed to be at the bottom of the besitation of the Santiago authorities to dispose of their formidable armorolad. It is believed that Chili would sell the ship if a sufficient bonus ever the contract price were given, but there a feeling in naval circles, based in probability on official information, that even if the United States offered to pay the maximum amount asked, the South American republic would still hesitate to release the O'Higgins on account of the hostile feeling toward this country and its citisens.

It is pretty certain, however, that the O'Higgins will not be transferred to Spain. This Gov ernment, it was said to-day, would view such an act as unfriendly on account of the paternal interest which the United States exercise over the other American republics through the appli cation of the Monroe doctrine, and was prepared to make representations to Chill of that character. Considerable feeling is manifested in official circles over the reported attitude of the Chilian authorities, and there is a disposition shown which may develop into a determination on the part of the Government to call Chili sharply to account if the O'Higgins passes into Spanish hands. For the present, however, the Washington Ad-ministration is satisfied that the armorclad is safe from Spanish importunities, and the hope is growing stronger that she may ulti mately become the property of the United States. Just why this sudden change of opinion has come is not explained. Naval officers are keeping close mouths in regard to the purchase

of foreign ships.

Although the naval officials knew early to-day that the cruiser San Francisco had left Lisbon for Newcastle-on-Tyne to take charge of the acwly purchased Amazonas, the fact was not admitted officially until late in the afternoon. This is one of the results of Secretary Long's or-der of yesterday forbidding subordinates to give information to the press without his permis The San Francisco will send a crew aboard the Amazonas and both vessels will leave for the United States as soon as possible thereafter. Lieutenant-Commander Nazro, the exscutive officer of the San Francisco, will command the Amazonas on the trans mantic voyage, which will probably end at lew York, where some refitting of the new masonas will take place before she is sent to sia Admiral Sicard's flest.

A detachment of American blue jackets under an officer will also be placed on eard the Admiral Bren, the Stars and Stripes will be hoisted at the peak, and the United States Government will assume formal ession of the Brazilian. This will be done a precautionary measure in the event hat war should occur before the finishing touches to the cruiser, which will consume several months, can be made. declaration of war between Spain and the United States before the formal transfer of the Brazilian ship to this Government would probably cause the British Admiralty to decline to allow the Admiral Breu to leave Newcastle for an American port to engage in operations

against the Spanish forces.

Whether the Argentine armored cruiser San Martino, now under construction at Leg-born, Italy, is in the market has not been ascertained by the United States agents in Europe, Argentina has not offered to sell her and probably will not unless Chili dis Poses of the O'Higgins. Chili and Argentina are watching each other closely, and neither willing to part with the advantage held by the possession of a modern armorclad. Both the O'Higgins and the San Martino are far superior to the two Brazilian cruisers, and the Navy Department is willing to pay a big price to get them.

There is reason to believe that some tor pedo boat destroyers will be secured for the American Navy in Europe, but the paval officials will not tell where those are which they have in view. The naval attaches abroad are after some big ship believed to be for sale Nothing further than this about the attempt to buy her can be obtained.

Mr. Herresboff, the blind torpedo boat builder, has been here for the last two days in an effort to impress on the authorities the necessity of constructing at once e large fleet of this type of boats, and after an interview with the President and Long this morning he is sat isfled the Government intends awarding contracts for the delivery of a number of these boats out of the emergency fund. Mr. Herreshoff discussed the torpedoboat phase of the havy's weakness at some length with the Presi dent, who, according to the famous builder, was deeply interested in the subject, and although no: committing himself to any plan of torpedo boat building it is believed he will agree to the suggestion of Secretary Long that a number of boats be contracted for to be furnished in the

Shortest practicable time.

Mr. Herreshoff offers to duplicate boats of the Gwynn and Talbot class, which he has re-cently built, in nincty days, and is willing to undertake the building of fast torpedo but destroyers to be delivered in four months e: less. The plans for the former type are now works and the material for the work could be secured specifily. Other firms have lately made offers to furnish any number of tornedo boats within from two to three months. The Holland Company, which completed the salmarine boat now practicing in New York waters, says it can complete fifty of the em lier type in two months. As these are the only boats of any type that the navy could have suit in this country within a short time it is probable that the emergency fund will be

dr. wn on to provide a small flotille Surgeon-General Van Reypen of the navy Las sological the l'innt line steamer Grand Duchess

for conversion into an ambulance ship and is now FOR FIVE NEW ORY DOCKS. at Newport News, where the vessel is being repaired examining her and making an estimate of the time and money required to fit her out. The vessel was built at Newport News two years ago, and is a powerful seagoing steamer of great speed and with accommodations for a large number of passengers. She would, if converted, make a commodious vessel for a hospital ship, Dr. Van Reypen said before leaving that in event of trouble it would be absolutely necessary for the navy to have attached to each squadron a ship of this type,

and removed to hospitals on shore.

Ambulance ships are generally of great speed. The fact that they fly the Red Cross flag immunes them from attack under the Geneva award.

where the sick and injured could be cared for

These vessels also carry no powder, projectile, or shell, and are in no sense war vessels. The medical men do not anticipate that the ship will be purchased until the situation is still more acute, but they wish to be ready when the time comes for immediately equipping the vessel and getting her in readiness for service.

The Morgan line steamer El Sol, or the American liner Ohio, will be the repair ship to accompany the fleets in the event of war. The former was launched at Newport News four years ago, and has been in service between New York and Southern ports, She is quite fast, large, 416

feet long, and capable of a high steaming radius. The Ohio is a much older vessel, and sails out of Philadelphia to foreign ports. The Ohio was impressed by Secretary Tracy and fitted out as a repair ship during the threatening period following the Chilian attack on the Baltimore's

Should either vessel be converted the Boston Navy Yard will be selected for the work. There tools are in abundance, and everything necess ry for the vessel.

THE O'HIGGINS STILL FOR SALE. Agents Both of the United States and Spats Mose to Seeure Mer.

Special Cable Desputch to Tun Sun. LOWDON, March 15,-Despite the announce ment that Spain had bought the Chillan cruiser O'Higgins, the representatives of the United States have not abandoned hope of securing that vessel. The matter has reached a point where both Spain and the United States have a serious grievance against the Chilian officials on account of their sharp practice. The ship cost nearly \$5,000,000, and to scoure her an enormous advance on that sum will have to be paid. There is no reason to conceal the fact that not all or much of the premium will go to the

Chilian Treasury.

The offers of ships at the American Embassy are so numerous that it is impossible to keep count of them. The price demanded is always vastly in excess of the value. The same ship in many cases is offered by a dozen brokers in succomion, each at an advance on the last figure. One amusing case can be cited. A small, fast nerchant steamer was first offered for #30,000. Ten more brokers came in succession within forty-eight hours, each ignorant of the others' visits, and the last agent demanded \$90,000 for

MR. OSBORNE'S REMARKS.

mi-General in London on Our Moi tions with Spain. Special Cable Desputch to Tun Sun

Lowness, March 15.—The Honourable Artillery Company gave their annual banquet to-night. ong the guests were Mesers. Hedges, Ferris, and Lowis of the Ancient and Honorable Artil lery Company of Boston, and William M. Osborne, the American Consul-General. A num-ber of cordial kinship speeches were made.

Mr. Osborne, responding to the teast, "The President of the United States," said he did not think that either country needed protection from the other, except in combination against evil. He believed that the strain in the relations between the United States and Spain would soon be removed. President McKinley might be relied upon to deal with the emergency. He was never taken by surprise and was never thrown off his balance.

PROJECTILES FOR SPAIN. They Are 410 Post High and Are Supposed to

Be for a New Gan. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUR. LONDON, March 15.—The workshops of the Kynochs of Birmingham are busy with the

manufacture of special projectiles for the Spanish Government. These projectiles are of a different type and much larger than the company has heretofore nade. They are 419 feet high and it is supposed that they are intended for a new and especially deadly gun. A portion of the order for thes

projectiles has already been despatched to Spain

PIGHTING IN THE PHILIPPINES. Blenct Relieves the Years of Belians

Special Cable Desputch to THE SUR Howa Kong, March 15 .- The latest advices from the Philippine Islands are to the effec that Gen. Monet has relieved the town of Bolianso after five engagements with the insur

The insurgent garrisons and priests in the neighboring villages had been previously dis-persed or killed, and the garrison at Bolianao was taken by surprise, forty men being mas sacred. The European telegraph operators in the town are safe.

MORET ON THE SITUATION. The Spanish Minister Says Spain Boes Not Wish

Special Cubis Despatch to THE SUR.
MADRID, March 15.—Schor Moret, Minister of the Colonies, to-day informed a representative of THE SUN that the proposal that the Cubar Government treat with the insurgents had een received with displeasure in Havana. He added that he was convinced of President Mc Kinley's good faith and pacific intentions, and declared that Spain in nowise desired to pro-

The Lisbon correspondent of the Impareial says that twenty sailors, most of whom were Spaniards, deserted from the American squadron that was recently at that port.

OUR PREPARATIONS FOR WAR. The Imparcial of Madrid Thinks We Really Serious in the Matter.

Special Cable Despatch to THE BUR. MADRID, March 15,-The Imparcial says We received yesterday two telegrams from New York which no one has seen, nor will they be published in our columns. We have sen them to the Government, which has taken note

Both cablegrams refer to talk of prepara tions for war with Spain and the invasion of Cuba, not by gutter jingoes, but by functionaries and persons connected with the Govern ment whose position seems to warrant the genuineness of the reports."

Contractors Besiege Our Embassy

Special Cable Desputch to THE SUS.

LONDON, March 15.—The authorities of the United States Embassy are being postered by contractors and agents offering to sell provisions and other commodities in expectation war between the United States and Spain. The American Consulate here has receive some offers of entistment in the United States A-my and Navy.

Worth Seeing.

PROVISION MADE IN THE NAVAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

Portemouth, Boston, Lengue Island, Algiers, La., and Mare Island to Get Them-To Cost a Million Apleco and Dock Any Ship-Personnel Bill Not Considered Yesterday.

WASHINGTON, March 15 .- The House Committee on Naval Affairs voted to-day-7 to 3to recommend in the Naval Appropriation bill the construction of five dry docks. They will be located at Portsmouth, N. H.; Boston, League Island, Philadelphia: Mare Island, California, and Algiers, La. This bears out the exclusive forecast in THE SUN of the issue of the contest in the commit-tee made last Saturday. With the substitution of League Island for the Brookis an approval of the recommendations of the Bunce board which investigated the dry dock question last year, and whose findings formed the basis of the suggestions in the annual report of the Socretary of the Navy.

Three of the docks, those at Boston, League Island, and Mare Island, will be constructed of wood, of the most improved pattern and of am-ple dimensions to accommodate the largest ships that will be constructed within the next quarter of a century, in all human probability. The nature of the other two will be determined finally at a meeting of the committee to-morrow.

The dock at Portsmouth will probably be excavated out of the rock, and that at Algiers will doubtless be a floating concern. The docks are estimated to cost in round numbers a million dollars apiece, and to require two years for their construction. Half the sum will be appropristed in the bill and the other half will wided in the next annual appropriation bill.

Although Chairman Boutelle was not presen

when this action of the committee was taken, it is understood that he will support it on the floor of, the House and aid the advo-cates of this liberal policy in securing favorable consideration of the proposition. It is recalled that two years ago, when Gen. Bingham moved to amend the Naval bill by in-serting an appropriation for a dry dock at League Island, Mr. Hopkins of Illinois, as Chairman of the committee of the whole, ruled the proposed amendment out on a point of order. At that time it was not the policy of Congress or of the Administration to enter upon the construction of a dry dock system. It is not anticipated now, under existing conditions, that any one will invoke a technical construction of the rules to prevent the House from acting on the proposed improvements. Should the point be made, however, no doubt is felt that some means will be found of overcom ing it.

There was some discussion of the Roosevelt

bill to reorganize the personnel of the navy, but the committee decided, without the formality of a vote, not to include its provisions in the Appropriation bill as recommended by Secretary long in behalf of the President, Yesterday it was thought that the entire Personnel bill would be put through the House to-day, but instead it was agreed, in lieu of author-izing the addition of 109 junior engiasked for yesterday by Chief En gineer Melville, to provide for the enlistment of 100 machinists, who shall be warrant officers at \$1,200 and \$1,400 a year. This is one of the provisions of the Personnel bill, and Secretary Long agreed with the members of the committee that if the employment of these machinists would be a good thing at any time, it would be a particularly good thing just now. Other increases of the force of the navy urged by the bureau chiefs yesterday will be incorpo rated in the bill. Provision will also be made for the assignment of the members of the two older classes of the Naval Academy to positions aboard ship, as was done in 1863, in the war of the rebellion. The Personnel bill, as an independent proposition, will be considered by the committee after the Appropriation bill is out of the way.

and a determination concerning it reached as speedily as possible. yet been made of the total sum that will be carried in the bill. It will be in the neighborhood of \$40,000,000. Members of committee to-night expressed the opinion that it would be ready for present ation to the House on Thursday or Friday. If it reaches the calendar by that time its considera-

ion will be pressed early next week. President McKinley's desire that the Nava Reorganization bill or its salient features should be passed by Congress at once was made known to the committee in communication from Secretary Long. The Secretary suggested that the committee report a bill amalgamating the engineer corps with the line, providing that Ensigns' commissions be granted immediately to naval cadets who are on their graduation cruise, and that the term at the Naval Academy be reduced from six to four years in order to give nore officers to the navy without delay. These recommendations will be considered by the committee to-morrow and probably presented to the House before adjournment, with a request for immediate consideration.

At to-morrow's meeting the committee will consider propositions to provide for six torpedo posts and six torpedo-boat catchers, and that the appropriation carried by the regular annual bill shall be available on its passage.

TRYING THE SUBMARINE BOAT. She Takes Three Trips of Two Miles Each

The submarine torpedo beat Holland advanced herself yesterday a long step in the good opin-ions of those interested in her success. Submerged until her deck was awash and only her conning tower visible above the waves she made three trips from Perth Amboy of two miles each

at good speed. John P. Holland, the inventor of the boat, and three of his men went aboard at 3 o'clock. and, after running her out some distance from shore, clamped down the top of the turret. They then sank her slowly until the tiniest wave could splash across her deck. The three spurts of two miles each were made at a speed of between eight and ten miles an hour. When she was a few hundred yards from

shore it was almost impossible to follow her progress with the naked eye. Mr. Holland said, after he came ashore, that he was perfectly satisfied with the trial. The cont had obeyed her rudder perfectly. He said he intended to change the arrangement of her callast and give ber an under water trial at

SPANISH BALL AT HAYANA. American Navel Officers Excuse Themselve from Attending.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun MADRID, March 15,-A despatch from Havans to the Heraldo, dated March 14, says: "Lust vening a ball was given at the Spanish Casino n honor of the officers of the Spknish warships Vizcaya and Almirante Oquendo. The officers of the United States warship Montgomery were nvited, but excused themselves on the ground that they were in mourning for the victims of

"To-day the supplies brought by the American despatch boat Fern have been distributed at Matanzas."

tien. Woodford's Family Mests the Queen

Special Cable Desputch to THE SUK. MADRID, March 15 .- Gen. Woolford, the American Minister, to-day presented the mem bers of his family to the Queen Regent. Her Majesty received her guests in the most cordial

TORPEDOES FOR TWO CRUISERS. Twenty Whiteheads Placed on Board the Cotumbin and Minnenpolis

PHILADRIPHIA, Pa., March 15.-The Government tug Leyden, with twenty Whitehead tor from Newport, arrived at League Island to-day. Ten of them were put aboard the Columbia in midstream and the other ten were stored in the hold of the Minneapolis. The Ley den brought 3,600 pounds of guncotton. After discharging her cargo she will tow barges to Key West with coal and naval stores. Cruisers of the size of the Minneapolis and Columbia usually carry only six torpedoes each. The extra ones being taken on board to-day are re-

garded as significant. Among the arrivals at League Island to-day were 200 sailors and marines for the cruisers. The men came from Brooklyn, Washington Norfolk, and Boston. They will go on board of their respective ships to-morrow. A large force of men was to-day put to work at Fort Mifflin charging torpedoes and preparing other explosives for the navy. The ram Katahdin and the monitor Miantonomoh will proceed to Fort Mifflin for ammunition before sailing. There are said to be about forty tons of powder and a lot of projectiles in the fort. From orders received at League Island to-

day from Washington it is evident that the naval authorities there do not consider that onlistment for the warships at the Philadelphia Navy Yard are being made fast enough. The orders now are to enlist all landsmen who can pars the physical and mental examinations and put them to work at once on board the receiving ship Richmond. In consequence of these orders, the number of applicants for enlistments increased considerably to-day and more of them were taken than was the case when only machinists and able-bodied scames

AMMUNITION FOR KEY WEST. The Marbichend Leaves Tampa with a Hall Bosen Carloads on Board.

TAMPA, Fla., March 15 .- The cruiser Marble head left Port Tampa this afternoon with a half dozen carloads of ammunition bound for Key West and Tortugas, where the supplies will be distributed among the other shins of the fleet now waiting for them. It was the intention for the Marblehead to take as much of the munitions of war as it was possible for her to carry, but imperative orders reached the commander of the cruiser to-day, and as a result she sailed as soon as she could be gotten in readiness. Two sets of orders are said to have arrived on the same mail, one of which was sealed and to be opened only when the cruiser was at sea.

Thirty more carloads of ammunition are now on the railroad tracks of the Plant system within twenty miles of Tampa waiting to be transported.

The steamer Mascotte of the Plant steamship line arrived here to-night from Jamaica, and a prominent official of that system is authority for the statement that she has been chartered by the United States Government to transport the remaining munitions to Dry Tortugas. At 7 o'clock to-night a number of the carr

scaled with the Government seal have been moved down on the dock in a convenient place for loading on the steamer, and the Mascotte is expected to sail before morning.

BIG SHIPMENT OF POWDER.

Three Euudred Thousand Pounds Sent from the Navy Yard to Key West.

The heaviest consignment of powder that has een shipped from a United States naval station in years was sent from the Brooklyn Navy Yard to Key West yesterday by a special train over the Pennsylvania Railroad. The powder was conveyed to Jersey City early in the morning by the navy yard tugs Nina and Narkeeta. It was for the use of Admiral Sicard's fleet.

In all there were 300,000 pounds of the pow der, contained in cases, each holding an amount of powder equal to the amount carried by a gun of the size it was intended for. The cases were of polished copper, with brass handles, and each case was so marked as to show the size of gun for which the powder was intended. The cases were put aboard the train by gunners from the navy yard, who also went South with it.

After the powder was removed from her the Narkeets steamed back to the navy yard and took on board thirty-three men drafted for the crew of the Columbia, now at the League Island Yard. The men were mostly coal passers. The recent requisitions for crews for the different war vessels have left only about seventy-five men on the receiving ship Vermont.

ALL AMMUNITION INTACT.

Important Information Regarding the Main Comes to Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 15 .- Information which eft Havana on last Saturday, and which comes directly from a person thoroughly conversan with the present condition of the submerged hull of the battleship Maine, says that the divers, after three weeks' work, have discovered that the coal powder and shell carried by the ill-fated vessel have been accounted for in full and found intact. The shells were being taken out of the hull and opened. All the armor-piercing shells have been found empty. With this in formation came positive indications that the Court of Inquiry has nearly finished its investigation. They appeared to have confined themselves then to an examination of wood work near the explosion and of the powder tanks and shells.

Little more remained to be done beyond taking the final testimony of the divers. The evidence cited is considered as furnishing further proof that the Maine was wrecked by an outside ex

Especially significant is the fact that the coa was without any evidences of ignition, thus apparently establishing the impossibility of spontaneous combustion. It is impossible to make public the source whence this information

TOOLS TO MAKE RAPID-FIRE GUNS Serious Situation to the Effort to Turn Out

Ordnauce Rapidly. HARTFORD, Conn., March 15 .- At Pratt & Whitney's shop in this city the machinery with which the rapid fire guns are made is manufactured. No other company in this country makes this particular machinery, and none can be fitted out to do it without the expenditure of a great deal of time. Machine guns for the auxiliary vessels are being turned out in Bridgeport as fast as possible, and the Pratt & Whitney Company is being urged to run day and night to furnish additional machinery with which to enlarge the Bridgeport plant.

To meet the demand for guns for the contingent fleet the making of gun machinery should have begun two years ago. It is delicate work, and the best that can be done is to produce the machines in sixty days. To this delay the Government objects, as it would be three months before the machinery could be made and the guns finished.

Capt. C. E. Clark to Command the Oregon. WASHINGTON, March 15 .- An unexpected change in the command of the battleship Oregon was made necessary to-day by the condemna was made necessary to day by the condemnation by a board of medical survey at San Francisco of Capt. Alexander H. McCormick.

The Oregon is coaling and taking on ammunition at San Francisco, in preparation for her
long trip around Cape Horn to join Admiral
Sicard's soundron at Rey West.

When the Navy Department was informed
this morning of the result of Capt. McCormick's
examination, it immediately ordered Capt.
Charles E. Clark to command the Oregon. Capt.
Clark is in command of the monitor Monterey.

The Procklyn Conling Up. NEWPORT NEWS. Vo., March 15 .- The cruise: Brooklyn arrived here to-day to fill her coal bunkers after the long voyage from the southern seas. It is understood that the Brooklyn will take on 800 tons of coal,

TO MENACE SPAIN'S COAST.

OUR CRUISERS WILL GO IF HER TORPEDO BOATS COME.

The Salling of Mer Small Destroyers from the Consries for Hayana Will Be Begarded as Unfriendly to Us, and the Scuding of Our Fast Craisers to Her Coast Will Be the Reply.

WASHINGTON, March 15 .- One of the most interesting propositions now under serious consideration by the naval authorities relates to the immediate formation of a flying squadron of fast cruisers and perhaps some auxiliary ships to threaten the coast of Spain an offset to the despatch of a Spanish orpedo boat fiotilla to Havana. This scheme has been brought to the attention of the resident, and it is understood that he is not unfavorable to its execution under certain cirumstances. There are grave possibilities involved in the project, and the Administration intends to go slow; but THE SUN reporter has unquestionable authority for the statement that the flying squadron undoubtedly will be formed and ent out on its important mission if the Spanish flotilla which left Cadls on Sunday for the Canaries continues its voyage from the latter point with Havana or Porto Rico as its destination. However warlike this plan may seem, there is

no doubt that the naval authorities are making preparations for putting it into execution They think, however, that it will be a week, and pernaps two weeks, before the intentions of the Spanish Government in regard to the flotilla will be known. This delay is fortunate, for the greatest difficulty is being encountered in securing full crews for the commerce destroyers Columbia and Minneapolis, which will form part of the flying squadron. Both these ocean greyhounds were placed in commission at the League Island Navy Yard to-day. They are ready for active service, but require more men than the Navy Department is able to obtain at this time vithout drawing on other ships.

The Columbia and her sister ship require 403 nen each. Only 325 men have been secured for both ships, leaving 481 vacancies in the crews A number of apprentices from the training ship Essax will assist in filling up the gap, and men from the receiving ship Vermont will also help essen the difficulty, but there will still be short complements. Enlistments for the naval serice are not being made rapidly, and the Spanish flotilla may have started on its way from the Canaries to Havana before the Columbia and the Minneapolis are ready to join the flying squadron. The departure of the flotilla from Cadia with

the announcement that it is going to Havana has excited much interest in naval circles. The naval authorities contend that there only one explanation of this movement. It means, they assert, that the little destroyers are intended for an offensive movement against vessels of the United States, which to be construed as an unfriendly act on the part of Spain. Torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers cannot be used in suppressing the insurrection in Cuba. They are not available for fighting the insurgents. It has been concluded, therefore, that they are to be devoted to offensive manouvring against the United States naval force, a belief which is borne out by the fact that torpedo craft are intended for operations against big warships. Their movement to waters near the coast of the United States is viewed with concern, to use a diplomatic term, and the naval authorities are making preparations that will correspondingly "concern" the Government of Spain. These statements are thoroughly reliable and are based on information given in response to careful inquiry. Anybody can see what the result may be.

The proposition mentioned has been under onsideration during the last twenty-four hours, but enough progress has been made to justify the assertion that a plan for the formation of a flying squadron, and its assignment to the Spanish coast, has been practically arranged. President McKinley will decide whether it shall be

The Spanish flotilla sailed from Cadiz at 6 o'clock on Sunday evening. It consists of the and is being escorted by the Transatlantic company's steamer Ciudad de Cadiz, a vessel that would be used for auxiliary purposes by Spain in the event of war. The Ciudad de Cadis is said to have been protected and armed. Notice of the departure of the flotilla was sent to the Navy Department, with the additional information that the boats are bound for the Canaries, where they are due on Wednesday. Every movement of Spanish warships is reported promptly to the State and Navy Departments by American representatives abroad and the office of naval intelligence keeps account of wherethese vessels are. Press despatches say that the flotilla will go to Porto Rico or Havana, but the Navy Department wants confirmation of this statemen before taking the radical measures involved in

the flying squadron scheme. Just as soon as it is known that the flotilla has started for the West Indies the flying squadron will be sent to the Spanish coast, provided President McKinley consents, probably taking the route that will be travelled by the tor pedo craft in the hope of letting the Spanish officers and men see that the United States mean business. Its purpose will be to harass Spanish commerce if hostili ties are to be declared, but its presence will also serve as a warning to Spain that this country has left nothing undone to make the struggle short. Information was received at the Navy Department to-day that more torpedo boats would leave Cadiz for the Canaries to-morrow to accompany the first division to West Indian waters. This has made surer the probability that the flying squadron will be sent to Spain if the flotilla should proceed to Cuban or Porte Rican ports.

The present intentions of the naval authorities for a quick formation of the flying squadron contemplate that it shall be composed of the armored cruisers Brooklyn and New York and the commerce destroyers Columbia and Minneapolis, and perhaps the St. Louis and the St. Paul the International Navigation Company's but whether the two American liners will be impressed before hostilities occur has not been determined. It was not until some time to-day that it was determined to let the St. Louis start on her regular transatlantic trip to-morrow. There was much communication by telegraph and long-distance telephone between the Navy Department and the officers of the American line and Capt. Rodgers of the auxiliary fleet board in New York. The company's officers represented that the St. Louis had on board a great quantity of perishable freight which night be ruined if the ship did not start and its transfer were made to another steamship. An indication of how critical is the present

situation was given by the hesitation of the Navy Department to let the St. Louis leave. To hold the St. Louis would have been equivalent to a determination to impress her into the service of the Government, a matter to which much serious consideration was for several hours before the final decision was made. President McKinley at last determined not to impress the vessel, and information to that effect was sent to the International Navigation Company. He thought that it would not be necessary to attach the St. Louis to the navy until war was in sight, and was apparently satisfied that there would be no hostilities before the return of the St Paul from Southampton. The Brooklyn is now at Hampton Roads await-

bur the arrival of the other ships to compose the flying squadros. The New York is at Key West and the Columbia and Minneapolis are at League Island. Just as soon as the two commorce destroyers have sufficient craws

they will be ordered to Hampton Roads. The detachment of the New York as the flagship of the North Atlantic squadron wil depend on the future movements of the Spanish flotilla and the decision of the President. No officer has been selected to command the flying squadron. The name of Commodore Howell, commanding the depleted European station, has been suggested, but he will probably not be as signed to the duty. Commodore Schley con-tinues as the most likely candidate.

Special Cable Desputcheto TRE SUS. MADRID. March 15 .- It is said that the tor

peds flotilla which sailed from Cadiz on Sunday evening will only stay at the Canary Islands and Porto Rico long enough to embark provisions, and will proceed with all despatch for Cuba. The other torpedo flotilla, which will start shortly, will probably remain at Porto Rico.

ROARD OF INQUIRY SAILS.

It Left Havana for Mey West Last Erening, but May B-turn in a Few Days.

HAVANA, March 15. The Board of Inquiry will leave Havana for Key West at 5:30 o'clock this afternoon

According to what has been heard from some members of the board and the belief of the Spanish authorities, the board will return to Havana in a few days to take the testimony of the divers who came her on the tugboats Un derwriter and Chief, the first belonging to the Boston Tugboat Company and the second to the Merritt-Chapman Wrecking Company.

These divers will make a new and thorough examination of the hull of the Maine, and if their report confirms the previous testimony of the other divers, it is believed that will end the board's inquiries into this branch of the investigation.

Capt, Sampson and the other members of the board at 4 o'clock went to say good-by to Con-

sul-General Lee, KEY WEST, March 15,-It was learned this evening that the Maine Board of Inquiry will return here to-morrow morning. The officials refuse to affirm or deny the report, but your correspondent has entire confidence in his authority.

The steamer Detroit is to sail at once for Tampa to load ammunition for the fleet.

READY FOR SEA DUIT All Naval Officers on the Active List New or

Shore Will Prepare for the Son. KEY WEST, March 15.-It is said among naval officers here that all the officers on the active list who are now on shore duty have been or dered to hold themselves ready for sea duty and that their places ashore will be filled by retired officers. Even those on duty at the Naval Academy are said to be under this order.

The vigilance and activity in the work of keeping the fleet here ready for any emergency are unabated.

Work that will give room at the Government piers sufficient to enable eight of the smaller ships and torpedo boats to coal at once was begun to-day. No ship is allowed to remain with her bunkers depleted of coal to an amount greater than 100 tons. Coaling is done almost daily, and another schooner came here with a further supply.

The Marblehead is at Tampa to-day loading war material. She is expected down to-morrow.

GETTING DOCTORS READY. Committee to Select Surgoons for the War

ships, Who Will Go at Call. The possibility of war has made it necessary that the Navy Department should know at once where it may be able at a moment's notice to get a sufficient number of surgeons for service on our warships whenever they may be called

upon to meet an enemy.

For this purpose Rear Admiral Bunce, commandant at the navy fard in Brooklyn, has appointed a local committee of physicians to pick out suitable men for this service from among the younger physicians and surgeons who may indicate a desire to join the naval service. This committee was organized yesterday moraing. Dr. David D. Toal of 151 Avenus A was made Chairman.

STRANGE LIGHT IN THE SKY. It Appears Over Babylon and Interests Stany

BABYLON, L. I., March 15 .- A strange light appeared in the sky here about 8:45 o'clock this evening. It was entirely unlike northern lights. Those who studied it could only conjecture that it might be the reflection on the clouds of a powerful search light, but it did not move rapidly

or by starts. It was plainest when it first appeared. It was then in the East. It moved slowly toward the south, fading out and appearing again at intervals. It then travelled in a southwesterly course. At times it was almost directly over course. At times it was almost directly over-head. It vanished entirely in less than three-quarters of an hour. The superstitious con-nected the light with the threstened war.

WHO IS THIS MANY

A New York Financier Telegraphs an Unpa

WASHINGTON, March 15. -- In the universal support which the President has had in his determination to make every preparation for war, there has been one discordant note. It is contained in a telegram substantially as follows: War must be prevented at any cost. What

"War must be prevented at any cost, what is the loss of 250 men compared to a general impairment of values?"

This telegram came from New York, and it was signed with the name of a well-known man of finance. Who he is the reporter could not ascertain. Everybody in official circles who knows of the message is indignant over the matter.

COAST SIGNAL STATIONS. Capt. Goodrich in Charge of the Work of Ha-

tablishing Thom. WASHINGTON, March 15 .- Capt. Goodrich, the President of the Naval War College at Newport, R. I., has been placed in charge of the work of establishing coast line signal stations to be used

in the event of war.

He received his instructions at the Navy Department to day and will begin at once a tour of inspection along the Atlantic coast selecting stations and making estimates of the cost of equipping them. Navy militiamen will be assigned to these stations if hostilities occur.

Putting Guns on the Cruiser Chicago.

Some of the five-inch and six-inch guns recently received at the Brooklyn Navy Yard from the Washington yard were placed on the cruises Chicago yesterday. Work has been rushed or this cruiser, and guns were put in place much this cruiser, and guns were put in place much somer than was expected.

The Atlanta will have her guns emplaced within the next week. The six-inch breach-loading rifle taken on Monday from the receiving ship Vermont was shipped to Mare Island Yard at San Francisco resterday.

When the sun reaches its cestination it will be mounted on the Philadelphia. The gon was painted white to keep it from rusting in transit.

Ges. Graham Expected To-Day in Atlanta.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 15.-The commander of the recently created Department of the South, Brig. Gen. William M. Graham, will arrive here early to-morrow morning and at once assume early to-morrow morning and at once assume control of the territory allotted him. His first work will be the selection of suitable headquarters, as the crowded condition of Fort McPherson, five miles distant, renders it impossible to accommodate the General and his staff there. It is probable that a suite of rooms will be leased in one of the new office buildings here.

nound Stramers for Transports.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 15.-A representa tive of the Government has arranged with the Consolidated Railroad for the use of several of the steamers belonging to the road, now sta-tioned at Stoniarion, in case they are needed for transports. The Consolidated owns three large stonners, the Maine, the News Hampshire and the Connecticut.

PUSHING PREPARATIONS.

DELAY IN THE MAINE REPORT USED TO ADVANTAGE.

The President Gratified at the Progress Made -He Will Send the Maine Report to Congress-Talk of an Early Adjournment-

Senator Proctor's Visit to Cuba Not Official. Washington, March 15.—President McKinley and Secretary Long are still uninformed as to the time when the report of the Naval Board of Inquiry in the Maine case will be received. There is reason to believe, however, that they expect the work of investigation to be completed within a few days and the report sens immediately to Washington. Each day's delay adds to the anxiety of the Administration and increases the eagerness of the United States

generally to know what the verdict is to be.

The waiting has served one good purpose however, in giving the President additional time for bringing the army and the navy one step nearer the stage of complete preparation for war. The closing of the bargain yesterday for the purchase of the two cruisers and the action of the Navat Committee to-day in embodying in the Naval Appropriation bill certain features of the Perbill that will give the navy the muchneeded increase in the engineer force have done much toward bringing the navy up to the perfect state of efficiency that will be necessary if a war takes place, and the President and all of the officials of the Administration feel highly gratified at the harmony of feeling existing between Congress and the executive departments that has made is possible to accomplish so much in a short *pace of time. The work of completing the preparations for a possible conflict is carried on actively in all departments of the Government service. and each day adds to the myriad of important details to be attended to.

The President has decided to make public as once upon its receipt the report of the naval court, and to do this by sending it to Congress with a message explaining its importance and effect, as viewed by the Administration, and stating as briefly as possible his plan for demanding reparation from the Spanish Government, Some of the President's friends and advisers think that to do this would be to invite Congress to take some action on the subject, but the President, on the contrary, believes that by taking Congress into his confidence and informing them of what he proposes to do he will forestall any action that the two houses might be disposed to take, and, without antagonizing anybody, retain control of the negotia-tions and keep the settlement of the Cuban question out of Congress altogether, at least for the present.

The knowledge of the President's decision to communicate the report of the naval Board of Inquiry to Congress in this manner has aroused a discussion as to the advisability of having the session adjourn as soon as the necessary legislation can be disposed of, and without waiting for a settlement of the general Cuban question, This discussion has grown to such proportions that it is now said to be the intention of the especial friends of the President in the Senate and House, like Senator Hanna and Representative Grosvenor of Ohio, to rush all measures to a vote and end the session even before the report of the Board of Inquiry is received at Washington. It is not a fact, however that any such movement is on foot, although some of the more ardent friends of Cuba are prepared to believe it. Speaker Reed is one of the men whose assistance would be necessary to carry out any such plan and he knows nothing of it. It has all along been the desire of the Speaker to keep the House at work persistently, so that when the calendar important measures shall be disposed of the House would be ready to pro-pose an early adjournment. He now thinks that so far as the House is concerned, so well has it done the work mapped out by the Committee on Rules, of which he is the Chairman, that adjournment could take place within month. He is not sanguine, however, that the Senate will dispose of the bills sent there by the House by that date, but thinks that about

adjournment. Nobody has broached to the Speaker the advisability of rushing the session to a close before the report of the Board of Inquiry is received, and there are very few men in either the Senate or House who think such a plan has been considered seriously. The programme of the friends of the Administration and other Republican leaders in the Senate and House is undoubtedly to adjourn as soon as the necessary legislation can be disposed of, and in this purpose they are controlled some-what by the desires of the Fresident, who thinks it would be better to allow the Executive branch of the Government to have full control of the negotiations with regard to the Spanish controversy, and to allow the President to settle the Cuban question in his

May 1 the two houses should be ready for final

There is a general disposition in both houses and among all parties so to leave the question in the hands of the President, and there is reason to believe that whatever plan of action he outlines to follow the publication of the report of the Board of Inquiry will be acquiesced in by Congress. That report undoubtedly will have been made public long before the Senate or the House is ready to adjourn.

Every recommendation so far made by the President for legislation to assist him in pres paring to demand prompt reparation from Spain for the loss of the Maine has met with hearing non-partisan indorsement, and it is thought the if he recommends to Congress that the settle ment of the Cuban question be left entirely to him, the consent will be equally prompt and

unanimous. Senator Procter of Vermont, whose visit to Cuba has attracted such wide attention, and to which such great importance is attached, had another talk with Secretary Alger to-day, but did not see the President. In view of the fact that his trip has received an official significance which does not belong to it, and in view of the further fact that such observations as he has made since his return have been distorted and amplified, the Senator contemplates making public a statement setting forth some of the things he saw and heard and what he regards as the duty of the United States toward ending the Cubas

Senator Proctor did not go to Cuba as the represontative of President McKinley, and, indeed, the President regrets that he went at all. These are the facts about the trips Some weeks before he left Washington Semator Proctor told the President that he thought of going to Florida with his friend Mr. Parker for their annual visit, and if there was no objection or if his journey would not be misunderstood by the public and cause the Administration barrassment he would like to go over te Havana and the adjacent provinces and study for himself the situation there. The President told Mr. Proctor that he saw no reason why he

should not do so. This conversation, however, took place before the destruction of the Maine, After that event the President had very serious doubts as to the wisdom or propriety of the visit to Havana of a Senator who was on terms of personal and political friends ship with the President. He probably felt that the object of the Senator's visit would be miss construed, and his acts and sayings would re-ceive an official significance to which they were not entitled. This has proved to be the case, and it will be quite difficult in not impossible for the President to remove the belief apparently so firmly fixed in the public mind that Senator Proctor did make his visit as Outs at the President's suggestion. The fact is, however, that he did not.